

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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44

ACTION AGR-20

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 EB-11 COME-00 DRC-01 RSC-01 /044 W

----- 012849

R 131405Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6345

UNCLAS TANANARIVE 0834

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, MA

SUBJECT: VISIT OF ROBERT JOHNSON

REF: STATE 106249

1. EMBASSY HAD PREVIOUSLY SET UP JUNE 21 APPOINTMENT FOR JOHNSON WITH JOSEPH RAKOTONIRINA, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF OFFICE MALGACHE DES TABACS (OFMATA), MALAGASY GOVERNMENT AGENCY RESPONSIBLE FOR ESTABLISHING TOBACCO PRICES, FOR PRODUCTION PROGRAMS INCLUDING CREDIT FACILITIES, AND FOR PURCHASING TOBACCO FROM FARMERS. OFMATA NOW INFORMS US THAT BECAUSE OF TRAVEL OUTSIDE OF TANANARIVE, RAKOTONIRINA WOULD BE ABLE TO RECEIVE JOHNSON THIS MONTH ONLY ON JUNE 25. JUNE 26 IS NATIONAL HOLIDAY AND ALL OFFICES AND BUSINESSES WILL BE CLOSED. HIS DEPUTY WILL NOT BE IN TANANARIVE AT ANY TIME DURING MONTH AND OFMATA INDICATES THERE IS NO OTHER OFFICIAL WHO COULD PROVIDE JOHNSON WITH REQUIRED INFORMATION ON TOBACCO INDUSTRY.

2. SINCE EMBASSY DOES NOT HAVE ANY DETAILED INFORMATION ON TOBACCO INDUSTRY, AND IT IS UNLIKELY THAT ANY OTHER MALAGASY GOVERNMENT OFFICE WOULD HAVE NECESSARY EXPERTISE TO DISCUSS THIS SUBJECT IN DEPTH, SUGGEST JOHNSON ATTEMPT TO REARRANGE VISIT IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO MEET WITH RAKOTONIRINA EITHER ON JUNE 25 OR AT SOME LATER DATE AFTER JUNE. HOWEVER, AT ANY TIME JOHNSON PLANS TO VISIT MADAGASCAR, EMBASSY CAN ARRANGE FOR VISIT TO COUNTRY'S ONLY CIGARETTE FACTORY IN CITY OF ANTIRABE, LOCATED ABOUT FOUR HOURS DRIVE FROM TANANARIVE. MAJOR TOBACCO PRODUCERS ARE LOCATED

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IN COASTAL AREAS, TOO FAR FROM TANANARIVE TO BE VISITED DURING

TWO-DAY VISIT.
MENDENHALL

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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